THE HOUSEHOLD

DOING UP CURTAINS.

Those of Lace Must Be Carefully Washed and Handled or They Will Not Last Long.

There are many and bitter complaints of the poor wearing qualities of lace curtains as compared with those that "lasted for years in the times of our grandmothers." Complainants often insist that the quality has deteriorated, and that there are no such goods made as those bearing date of 40 years ago, many of which are even yet in a more presentable condition than our own, that have passed through perhaps two or three cleanings in as many years.

The reason for this is, more than any other one thing, the difference in the process of cleaning. In localities, where the modern professional curtain-cleaner is unknown, it is altogether probable that the curtains last as long as ever. They are carefully washed under the personal supervision of the housekeeper or by her own hands, and are put upon the grass to bleach, and when sufficiently clear are rinsed and starched, not too stiff, for that might cause them to break, but just enough to make them look new. They are then neatly and regularly pinned down upon the parlor carpet and left to dry with locked doors, to keep out intruders, and open windows to let in the air.

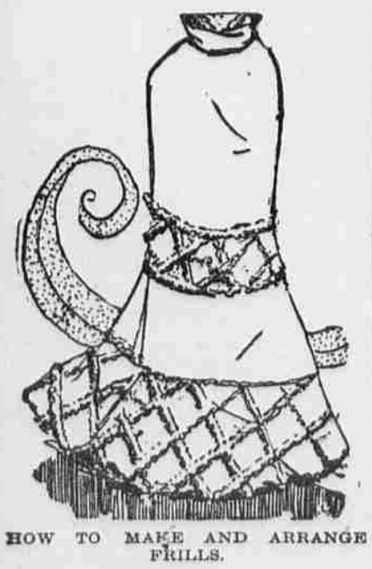
When taken up they are almost if not altogether as good-looking as new, and have suffered little if any injury during the process. Treated in this way tamboured lace curtains will last until the owners are wearied with seeing them around and get new ones for variety. The modern process is very different. The curtain is put into a large cauldron, with scarcely water enough to cover it, and boiled in the strongest bleaching chemicals. It is slightly rinsed and stiffly starched. If it is torn or the threads are broken, a section of net lace is dipped in thick starch or paste and laid over the broken spot, which has been partly closed by being drawn together with very fine thread. The net is then pressed upon the curtain with such force as to unite them like one fabric. The curtains are then dried, folded and sent home to be put up. There is sufficient strength in the starch and threads to hold the material together while the starch remains, but when next it is necessary to clean them they will be likely to drop apart by their own weight as soon as they are thoroughly wet. Very few curtains will bear the third cleaning of this sort. It has, therefore, become one of the dreads of the housekeeper's life to have the curtain-cleaning season come around. It is much better to have this done at home if possible, as a really good set of curtains ought to last at least until they are hopelessly out of fashion.—Decorator and Furnisher.

TALK ABOUT FRILLS.

Just How to Make and Arrange Them in Such a Way That They Will Lay Gracefully.

She is indeed an indifferent woman who dares to make up her trousseau without using frills as the chief decoration upon her gowns. Frills are used upon costumes for every occasion, even outing suits, for where braid is used as the skirt trimming the waist is almost covered with frills.

In making frills out of goods that have figures running through them—



HOW TO MAKE AND ARRANGE FRILLS.

especially flowers—be sure to have every figure running the same way; that is, unless they run up and down in the weave of the goods. Nothing looks so careless and clumsy as ruffles that are made with the figures running in all directions. After the strips for the frills are sewed together, if you do not care to head them with lace, hem the top and bottom, making the top hem much the narrower, and gather. Gather them with the fingers and stroke every stitch. This makes them much daintier than being gathered by machine. Divide the frills into four parts, sticking a pin at each quarter, and treat the skirt or waist in the same way. Sew a quarter of the frill on to a quarter of the skirt or waist and you will find that when completed the gathers will be evenly distributed and will set gracefully upon their foundation.

Frills put on in fancy design can be treated in the same way and, after this method is once tried, you will never vary from it.

THREE PRETTY SLEEVES.

Here Are the Very Latest Models from Which to Select the One You Like Best.

The goods which enjoy the most popularity this summer are so light both in weight and color, that the designs for sleeves are necessarily dainty and airy to keep pace with the delicacy of the material. Puffs and ripples finish the shoulders while the body of the sleeves is very tight.

If the body of the sleeve is made of figured goods the ripple or puff is made of plain goods trimmed with velvet,

THE LATEST SLEEVE DESIGNS.

baby ribbon or fancy buttons. If the puff or ripple is of plain goods then the body is, of course, figured.

The butterfly puff is both new and popular and is made by folding the cloth in a large butterfly bow and tacking it over the sleeves so that it can be removed if desired.

The sleeve which consists simply of a large puff is trimmed with lace and caught just above the elbow with a band of ribbon which fastens upon cut steel or pearl buttons. Long gloves are worn with these puffed sleeves as they are only half the usual length.

FLOWERS IN A BOWL.

A Simple Arrangement for the Artistic Display of Plants and Vines of All Kinds.

"I like flowers in a bowl," said a woman of an inventive turn of mind and an artistic taste; "they have such a generous effect, as if they had been picked in great handfuls—but I do not like them packed in a solid mass—so I have taken malleable copper wire (No. 20) and made frames to go over all my bowls and wide-mouthed vases, and now I can arrange my flowers with great ease and artistic effect. The wire frame is very easily contrived. With a pair of pinchers bend a ring of wire the size of the edge of the bowl, hooking the ends of the circle together. Then across this stretch lengths of wire, allowing about half an inch over the diameter, the circle to bend down and fit over the edge of the bowl. Twist the wires together where they cross each other, and give a firm twist around the circle of wire, and that is all. Where the wires bend over the edge of the bowl they are entirely hidden by the leaves and flowers, and the whole thing can be removed for cleaning.

"When arranging flowers with this frame I first make a light foundation with sprays of green to conceal the frame. Common garden asparagus is delightful when filling jars with sweet peas and many other blossoms. Nasturtiums I use with their own foliage, often sticking the flower stems right through the leaves. On this foundation flowers throw themselves into the most fascinating attitudes without any constraint or unnatural heavy massing, and you can hardly avoid making them look light and graceful. Anyone who has once utilized this simple device will never be willing to struggle with the arrangement of flowers in the old way."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

AFTERNOON REST.

No Period of Sleep Is Quite as Refreshing or Gives More Rest to Brain and Brawn.

The necessity of a rest hour for a busy mother and housekeeper cannot be too strongly insisted upon. All other women are apt to take this rest except the woman whose "work is never done," and who needs it the most of all. It is not necessary to take a full hour's rest, but as much time as this should be allowed in the early afternoon after the work of the dinner is over, for the simple object of resting. The habit should be acquired of going to one's room and of shutting out the outside world as much as it is possible, together with all worldly care and worry. Bathe the temples, loosen the dress, and, if possible, put on a loose wrapper and lie down. Sleep may not come at once, but the habit is soon acquired, and in a short time the tired woman who adopts this remedy will fall asleep almost as soon as she touches the pillow. Even if her enforced nap does not last over half an hour, no period of sleep in the 24 hours covering the same amount of time will be so refreshing or give so much rest to tired brain and muscle.—N. Y. Tribune.

To Brighten a Copper Kettle.

Fill the kettle completely with boiling water, to which has been added a small quantity of soda, and while the water is in the kettle rub the outside over briskly with a flannel dipped in quite sour milk. As a final measure wipe the metal dry and polish it with a wash-leather.

FARM AND GARDEN

HOUSE FOR LAYING HENS.

It Is So Convenient That Fowls Cannot Help But Do Quite Satisfactorily in It.

In order to make hens produce eggs when most desired, they must not only have extra care, but be provided with proper quarters. At the same time, however, it is hardly advisable for all poulterers to erect elaborate structures for this purpose, and especially when we take into consideration the desperate competition of the present day and oftentime low prices of eggs. Accordingly, we advance the idea that ordinary persons who make a practice of keeping from 50 to 100 fowls should indulge in a poultry house something like the one shown herewith in the illustration.

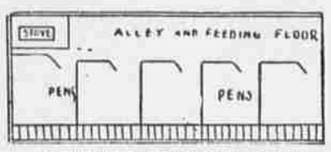
As can be seen, if situated by a bank, it affords a very suitable habitation for laying hens. Indeed, in early spring and fall, when the chilly days and

HOUSE FOR LAYING HENS.

nights retard the inclination of all hens and pullets to lay as steadily and early as they will with warm, nice quarters in which to reside, it is just the thing. Really, it is so roomy, convenient and well ventilated that fowls cannot help but do satisfactorily in it. For 100 hens it should be not less than 50 feet long, 25 feet wide, 12 feet at the highest point and eight feet where the windows are shown.

The pens should be ten by eighteen or more feet square, with nests for layers extending the entire length of the building under its lowest part, it being here dark and obscure—just the place in which to deposit eggs which, with up-to-date nests, can easily be collected by the poulterer at night and not one found broken.

As to the floor of such a building, it



INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT.

should be raised three or four inches from the ground to shut out dampness, and dry earth and coarse sand spread over it regularly after the old has been removed, for this gives the hens exercise and grit, both of which are highly essential to their welfare. Wire netting, of course, should be employed to divide the pens, and in the upright part of the building should be arranged the roosts. Here, also, should be arranged the ventilators, which at their best ought to be left open during the middle of the day, when the hens are down on the floor or out of the house, and closed at night, or partially so, to keep out the cold.

Concerning the stove (look at plan), this comes available for cooking food in its caldron or boiler before feeding the same to flocks in the morning, and also for keeping the building free from dampness—a thing highly important where a large number of hens are kept. Have the stove inclosed in a small apartment by itself, and then when you wish to warm the rest of the house open the door and let the heat pass out. Thus you keep the stove neat and clean, while if the apartment is mouse-proof, as it ought to be, a supply of grain and meal may be stored therein for the fowls, which economizes much in time and labor.

The windows, which in their sloping position should face directly to the south, afford the inmates a large amount of light and sunshine—all that are obtainable—and no matter how severe the weather may be, fowls thus provided for are always contented and happy, compensating their owner with an agreeable amount of eggs. When a hard snowstorm is in progress, however, it is policy to cover the windows with straw matting or the like, for then when it clears up the mats may be removed, and with them all the snow, leaving the glass perfectly clean and the hens to enjoy a regular paradise.—Frederick O. Sibley, in N. Y. Tribune.

Live Stock and Fertility.

Long and painstaking efforts in any one direction make men experts. Not until farmers rightly appreciate the value and necessity of the live stock business in relation to the preservation of fertility will they become expert in this line or capable of getting out of it all there is in it. It has well been said that the policy which the farmers of Illinois must adopt if they ever expect to attain their former prosperity is to provide a home market for their own product. By a home market we mean a market on the farm, without any cost of transportation except that which the farmer pays to himself for the use of his own teams and wagons. Nothing except live stock can provide this kind of a market.—A. P. Grout, in Farmers' Review.

Brahmas need but little range. While they like the open air they are contented in a small space.

WINTERING THE BEES.

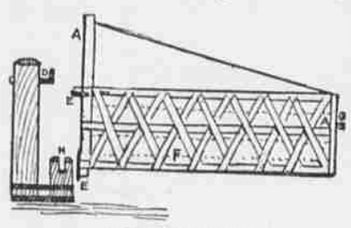
Unless It Is Done Successfully the Apiarist Cannot Make the Business Pay.

At an Indiana convention some years ago L. R. Jackson said: "I have made wintering of bees a special study, knowing that unless we can be more successful in wintering we can never make beekeeping a profitable business. Several things are essential to safe wintering, and preparations should begin early in the season. One of the most essential things is plenty of good honey as free from pollen as possible. Honey contains sugar in two forms, cane and grape sugar. Cane sugar is the most easily digested. Clover honey contains more cane sugar than the fall honey, and should be used for winter store. I always have frames in the upper story filled with clover honey for winter. These frames are set away until I pack my bees for winter. All preparations for winter should be made by the last of October. Bees should always be kept perfectly dry. Ice should never be found inside the hive. Bees should be kept from rearing broods in the winter. Much of the dysentery and nearly all the spring dwindling is caused by too early brood rearing. At least two old bees are lost for every young bee reared during the winter. I prefer wintering in a single wall hive on the summer stands. I know that a large majority of the beekeepers differ with me in this. Experience has taught me that there is more danger in bees becoming too warm than there is from cold. When the hive becomes too warm the bees become uneasy and consume a large amount of honey, start brood rearing, and unless they can have a good fly in a few days dysentery will follow. Cellar wintering has never been a success, neither has double wall chaff hives. If the hive is kept dry and well ventilated bees in a single wall hive will stand any cold we ever have in Indiana, and there will be but little brood raised before the 1st of April."

HANDY FARM GATE.

It Is Strong and Light, Easily Constructed and Not Apt to Get Out of Order.

I present a plan for making a light and handy farm gate. It is made of one by three-inch strips dressed to seven-eighths of an inch in thickness. I use hemlock. The gate post (A) is three by five inches. I mortise the three long boards, the middle one being marked B, and run strap to the hinge



A HANDY GATE.

through mortise on top board and fasten with a one-fourth-inch bolt. D is square, and goes through the post with burr on end. The reason for having it square is so that it will not turn in the post. The short post which sits level with top of ground wants a hole bored and a piece of gas pipe inserted for the lower hinge, which is made on strap and bolted to A for a stay.

I used galvanized twisted wire, using two strands and twisting after putting on. This makes the gate strong, light and durable.

F is a wire running through gate. I use for a fastener a slide with a slot; it works on a bolt running through at G, so when the gate is closed it will drop into the slot and cannot get away. I also use a cap on the gate.—Ohio Farmer.

ALL AROUND THE FARM.

It should not be necessary to state that feed imparts flavor to meats. Good meat cannot be made from bad feed.

Confine the pruning of gooseberries principally to thinning out main branches and cutting out weak and exhausted parts.

Plants will starve in any soil, however fertile, unless water is present to dissolve the food elements and prepare them for the plant's use.

We almost murder our lands by pasturing them too closely. How many pastures there are that are about as smooth and as even as a skating rink floor.

The first business of every young farmer should be to secure a spot upon which he can stand and proclaim to the world that these acres more or less broad are his.

As much care should be taken to keep water away from a well-constructed road as is taken to keep it out of the cellars of houses or from leaking through the roof.

The present system of paying highway taxes, figuratively designated as "working them out," is admittedly bad and can be easily remedied, but an attempt to make a change in this direction would undoubtedly meet with opposition.—Western Plowman.

The Road to Success.

You ought to be found at your place of business every working day of the year, as nearly as possible, and if you succeed you will find something that ought to be attended to. You must study to make every acre—yea, every square rod—of land as productive as you can. It will not pay to have one-half of the farm in paying crops and the other half neglected and allowed to grow noxious weeds, sprouts and briars, or even a half stand of grass. Every acre should be made to bring in its share of profit.—Dakota Field and Farm.